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# AGAWAM

## ADVERTISER NEWS

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## Town receives CDBG funding for 'micro' businesses

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
[gscibelli@turley.com](mailto:gscibelli@turley.com)

AGAWAM – There could be some relief coming for very small businesses.

Monday, Mayor William Sapelli announced the town had qualified and was awarded \$200,000 in "microenterprise" grants.

These grants are somewhat similar to the Payment Protection Program funded by the federal government, but are specifically geared toward businesses that have five or less employees.

The grant is from the Community Development Block Grant program that is part of the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Typically, the Town of Agawam has applied for the grant with East Longmeadow, but this time around, applied for the COVID-19 special funding with neighboring Southwick. Southwick received \$180,000 with the funding being used for microenterprises and the open food pantry, which has been serving more families since the pandemic began.

According to a press release from the Town of Agawam, the money will be used to help smaller businesses in town that have been hurt by the pandemic.

"The Town of Agawam is proud to partner once again with the Baker-Polito Administration, which deserves tremendous credit for their tireless support of lo-

cal governments, particularly in these times of crisis," said Mayor Sapelli. "We know that many of our smaller businesses continue to struggle with challenges presented by COVID-19. So we look forward to working with PVPC to get this program started as soon as possible."

The CDBG-CV microenterprise award will fund a second round of grants to be made available by the Town of Agawam. In April, Mayor Sapelli and the Agawam City Council worked together to reallocate \$168,000 of CDBG grant money for microenterprises suffering from the COVID-19 shutdown. Those funds were originally appropriated for an infrastructure planning study in North

Agawam. In that first round of grants, 11 microenterprises were awarded grants, which averaged \$5,000.

"We were happy to support 11 businesses with the first round of funding. And we hope to expand our reach this time around since the award criteria have loosened up. We would encourage all microbusinesses affected by COVID-19 to apply and see if they qualify," added Sapelli.

CDBG funds have been used in the past to help with affordable housing and other worthwhile programs that assist low-to-moderate income individuals.

The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, which has always helped assist with the application

and administration of the CDBG funds, also received some funding to help with the administration of the program.

A total of \$19.6 million was awarded to 36 lead communities. The regular CDBG program has been very competitive in recent years with fewer funds available and fewer grants given out to Western Mass. communities. Communities, like Agawam, have typically joined up with other communities to increase its chances of receiving a grant.

For more information on the program and to apply, please feel free to contact Marc Strange at (413) 786-0400 x8245 or [mstrange@agawam.ma.us](mailto:mstrange@agawam.ma.us).

## Opposition continues toward gas pipeline expansion

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
[gscibelli@turley.com](mailto:gscibelli@turley.com)

AGAWAM – An Agawam attorney is requesting the attorney general of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to file an amicus brief in response to the Tennessee Gas Pipeline's proposal to expand.

The expansion includes adding a 2.1-mile natural gas pipeline loop.

To accomplish this, the gas company would have to dig up farmland, wetlands, and other wooded areas.

According to her letter, which represents the views of Attorney Susan Grossberg and fellow resident Nancy Bobskill, she is concerned with the effects of global warming and the lack of action to prevent or reserve overheating of the planet.

"Thus, we were very encouraged to read about your petition to the DPU to open an investigation into the future of the natural gas industry in Massachusetts," Grossberg states. "Most relevant to us is your recognition that the heating sector must make sizeable reductions in its use of fossil fuels to achieve Massachusetts's legally binding statewide limit of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and that to do so gas distribution companies must be required to make significant changes to their planning processes and business model."

"Nancy and I both live a few miles from the proposed Tennessee Gas expansion project (the '261 Upgrade Project') which

includes digging up farmland, woods and wetlands to install a 2.1 mile natural gas pipeline loop. Especially concerning is that a proposed Alternate Backfeed from Agawam to Holyoke, which was to be enabled by this pipeline loop, has been cancelled.

"Although FERC issued a December 19, 2019 Order certifying the pipeline loop as a 'public convenience and necessity,' a dissenting commissioner, Richard Glick, stated that FERC "refuse[d] to consider the consequences its actions have for climate change." See page 1, paragraph 1 of the Glick Dissent starting on Page 43 of the attached Order. Fortunately, Food & Water Watch has filed the above referenced Petition For Review to the DC Circuit challenging the FERC Order on this basis.

The Commonwealth has the right to file an amicus brief without leave of court or any party under Rule 29(a)(2) of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure. As citizens of the Commonwealth, we implore you to file an amicus brief in support of the Petition For Review and demand that FERC be mandated to consider the effects on climate change in its decision regarding construction of this pipeline loop and all fossil fuel distribution projects in the Commonwealth."

An Amicus brief is defined as a statement submitted by "someone who is not a party to a case who assists a court by offering information, expertise, or insight

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## Agawam Congregational Church holds food drive



Janet Brown, Caroline Bassett, Matt Blackak, and Gail Demers were set up to collect food donations last weekend. PHOTOS BY SHELBY MACRI



The Agawam First Congregational Church accepted drive-by food donations last Saturday morning.



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## ARREST LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 423 calls for service from July 13 to July 19 and recorded no arrests. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty.

### PIPELINE ■ from page 1

that has a bearing on the issues in the case. The decision on whether to consider an amicus brief lies within the discretion of the court."

The gas pipeline has seen different forms of opposition during the past few years as Tennessee has sought to expand its service pipelines. Among the opposition has been area residents, the City of Northampton, and other concerned parties that have emerged since the gas explosions in Lawrence and Andover.

## Virtual Women's Leadership Luncheon series starts July 29

HOLYOKE — Holyoke Community College president Christina Royal and Amanda Sbriscia, HCC vice president of Institutional Advancement, will kick off a reimagined monthly Women's Leadership Luncheon Series on Wed., July 29.

The 2020 Women's Leadership Luncheon Series, postponed from spring due to COVID-19, will now take place virtually over Zoom on the last Wednesdays of July, August, September and October from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

The series is sponsored by HCC and Training and Workforce Options - TWO - a collaboration between Holyoke and Springfield Technical community colleges.

"Women leaders and up-and-comers will be joined by panels of like-minded women each month for small group discussions and open dialogue," said Tracy Whitfield, TWO's director of Business Development.

"Participants will have the opportunity to form a supportive network of women leaders, discuss topics of interest and enjoy a brown bag lunch, virtually. Professional development, networking and socialization over a delicious meal - does it get any better?"

Each lunch-time event will feature two presenters leading discussions on different topics:

July 29: "Leading Through Change" - Christina Royal (president, Holyoke Community College) and Amanda Sbriscia (vice president of Institutional Advancement, Holyoke Community College; executive director, HCC Foundation).

Aug. 26: "Empowering Women in the Work-

place" - Denise Jordan (executive director, Springfield Housing Authority) and Julie Quink (managing partner, Burkhart, Pizzanelli PC).

Sept. 30: "Comfortable in Your Own Skin, Finding Your Voice" - Tanisha Arena (executive director, Arise for Social Justice) and Pam Victor (owner, Happy Valley Comedy Theater).

Oct. 28: "Women Leaders in Non-Traditional Businesses" - Colleen Loveless (president and CEO, Revitalize Community Development Corporation) and Nicole Palange (vice president, V&F Auto).

The July 29 session is free. The remaining three sessions are \$20 each, or \$50 for the full series.

Registration is required. Space for each luncheon is limited to 25.

To register, please go to: [hcc.edu/womens-leadership](https://hcc.edu/womens-leadership)



Amanda Sbriscia will give one of the talks on leading through change. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



HCC will be holding women's luncheon talks starting on July 29.

## New England Army engineers receive new commander

CONCORD - Col. John A. Atilano II became the 38th commander of New England-based Army engineers during recent a change of command ceremony at the district's Concord headquarters. He assumed leadership from Col. William M. Conde.

"I am honored to command the New England District," Atilano said. "These are unprecedented times in our nation's history, but I know we can overcome any obstacle in our way because that's what the Corps does every day! I am proud to join the extremely talented team of professionals in the New England District as we work together engineering solutions for our nation's toughest challenges."

Atilano takes command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' responsibilities in the New England District's six-state region, which covers a 66,000 square mile region. In this role, Atilano will lead Corps efforts in environmental restoration programs, shoreline protection, studies

concerning water supply and quality, dredge material disposal, and comprehensive studies of regional river basins to name a few. Ongoing projects challenges he'll lead include regulatory activities, navigation and dredging, environmental restoration, clean up at former defense sites and other issues.

A native of Sacramento, California, Atilano is a graduate of the University of San Francisco with a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Behavior. He also holds four master's degrees: Public Policy Administration; Public Administration; Military Art and Science; and Joint Campaign Planning and Strategy. Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Conde, who has led the district for the past three years, will retire from the Army on Nov. 30, 2020, with more than 30 years of service to the nation.

## Agawam Fire Department awarded FEMA grant

AGAWAM - The Agawam Fire Department has been awarded a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant for \$4,860.00. The grant funds were awarded to fund the purchase of enhanced respiratory personal protective equipment which will help protect firefighters and Paramedics from COVID-19.

Fire Chief Alan Sirois stated, "These federal grant funds are very much needed and appreciated. The enhanced protection made available through this grant will assist in keeping our responders and the public safe as we continue to combat COVID-19. In addition, this new equipment, which can be safely decontaminated and reused, will help protect the department from equipment supply chain shortages in the future."

Apply online.  
Apply in person.  
Or do both.

## Home Mortgages

Buying a house can be stressful. Applying for a mortgage shouldn't be.

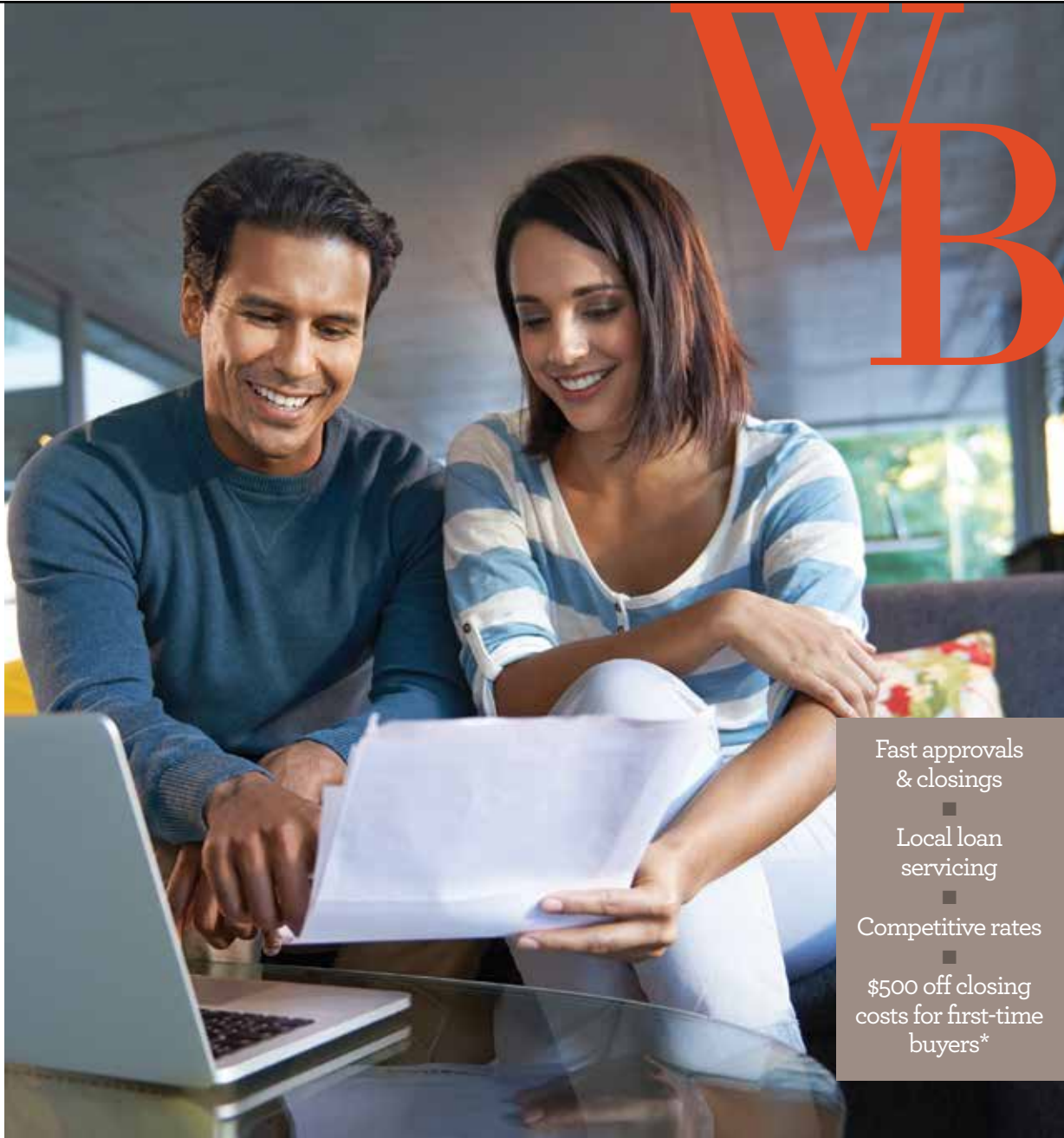
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# Agawam Library now open to the public by appointment

AGAWAM – The Agawam Public Library is pleased to announce that the library will be open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, by appointment. We are moving forward into Phase 3 of our re-opening plan in accordance with State and Local guidance.

Appointments are now available during normal hours on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Visitors are asked to call the library to make a 45-minute appointment to browse the library's collections or use a computer. The library will be closed to the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with staff in the building to assist you by phone and email. Items will be delivered via curbside pickup on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The library will be thoroughly cleaned while the library is closed to the public.

When you come in, you will notice less furniture out on the floor. The furniture is being stored in the Community Room to maximize social distancing guidance and increase your safety while using the building. All of our magazines, including the newest issue are available to circulate immediately. We are keeping newspapers on the shelf for browsing, but patrons who choose to read them should wash their hand immediately after use, as there is no effective way to sanitize them between uses. For the short term, library card catalog computers and self-checkouts will not be in service in order to limit the amount of cleaning that needs to be done throughout the day. For your convenience, the exterior book drops are open 24/7. All returned

items are quarantined for 72 hours before being checked in, so you will notice that the items are still on your card even after you've dropped them off. For the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic, the library is waiving all overdue fees, so there is no need to worry about charges on your library record from overdue books.

Our visitors are required to wear a face covering in the library at all times. Please do not visit if you currently have or have had a cough, fever, shortness of breath or are feeling unwell. Hand sanitizer is available throughout the library and social distancing signage is placed throughout the building to ensure patron and staff safety. If you are unable to wear a face covering, or are unsure if you are ready to visit the library in person, call us to ask about convenient home delivery for Agawam and Feeding Hills residents.

To visit in person, patrons should call the library to make an appointment to browse collections or use computers. We are hoping to be as flexible and accommodating as we can during this time. Our goal is to have as many people access the library as we can while keeping our staff and patrons safe. We welcome walk-ins, but patrons may be asked to wait if the library is busy. Calling ahead is encouraged.

Library staff are always available to answer your questions by phone and email. Please continue to use [libstaff@agawam.ma.us](mailto:libstaff@agawam.ma.us) for questions. Or you can reach the library by phone 413-789-1550.

## Sales tax holiday set for next month

BOSTON – Representative Nicholas Boldyga (R-Southwick) has announced that the annual sales tax-free weekend will take place the weekend of August 29-30. This marks the second sales tax holiday held under the new law signed by Governor Baker in 2018 that made the weekend an annual occurrence.

Retail items of up to \$2,500 purchased in Massachusetts for personal use on these two days will be exempt from sales tax. Items that do not qualify for the sales tax holiday exemption include motor vehicles, tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, and gas, among others.

"I've always thought people should be able to keep more of their hard-earned money. The annual sales tax holiday is an opportunity for people to do just that," said Boldyga. "The tax-free weekend will be an opportunity for people to buy local, support a small business, and make a purchase that they might not be able to otherwise afford." Representative Boldyga represents the 3rd Hampden District, which consists of the city of Agawam and towns of Granville, and Southwick. He can be reached at (413) 569-3137 Ext 103 or via email at [Nicholas.Boldyga@mahouse.gov](mailto:Nicholas.Boldyga@mahouse.gov).

## Applause series ends amid pandemic

*The Cultural Council is looking for donations for the next season*

AGAWAM – Six months of fundraising by the Agawam Cultural Council in support of season seventeen of its popular Applause Series abruptly came to an end this spring as everything shut down due to the coronavirus pandemic. Normally, freewill donations at these "first Friday" events would cover any shortfall. However, with only "virtual" performances on the schedule, the opportunity to collect the \$650 difference a few dollars at a time has been eliminated.

Sheila of Agawam was the first to commit her Hamilton to the cause. The Council is now challenging 64 like-minded members of the community to help raise the amount needed to fully fund the upcoming season – in \$10 increments – though larger amounts are certainly welcome! Whatever amount you can provide will be gratefully appreciated.

Please make your check out to the Agawam Cultural Council and send to Agawam Cultural Council, Agawam Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001. Make sure to include an email so that we may acknowledge your contribution.

Since 2004, the Applause Series has hosted more than 130+ musicians, artists, authors, actors, photographers, children's

productions, historians, and others at Friday evening presentations that outgrew the Agawam Public Library, prompting a move to larger quarters at the Agawam Senior Center in order to accommodate its growing audience.

The seventeenth season of the Applause Series, consisting of twelve events, begins Friday, September 4, 2020 and will end Friday, June 4, 2021. All events will be broadcast on Agawam Comcast Channel 15 and streamed on [www.agawammedia.tv](http://www.agawammedia.tv) until public performances can be held safely. More information can be found at [www.agawamcc.org](http://www.agawamcc.org).

The Agawam Cultural Council is an all-volunteer local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and is funded, in part, by the MCC. The ACC is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities. There is no charge to join or to serve in the Council.

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# Eversource announces major rate drop for electric service

SPRINGFIELD – Eversource customers who are on the company's Basic Service Supply option are seeing savings on their electric bill after the Department of Public Utilities approved the energy company's proposed electricity supply rate that is nearly 23% lower than the previous rate. Eversource is also encouraging customers to closely manage their energy supply options so that they do not overpay an alternative supplier. Eversource secured the lower six-month price for customers thanks to a reduction in wholesale power prices. The rate took effect on July 1.

"We're pleased to be passing along a summertime price cut to our customers who get their electricity supply through our Basic Service option," said Eversource Senior Vice President and Chief Customer Officer Penni Conner. "This reduction will come just in time to help customers who use air conditioning to cool their homes and businesses during the hottest days of the year. It will also help those customers experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19."

The supply rate is 9.020 cents per kilowatt-hour, down from the previous six-month rate of 11.666 cents per kilowatt-hour. The decrease will result in a monthly savings on the supply charge of \$14.55 for residential customers using an average of 550 kilowatt-hours of electricity.

As a regulated delivery company, Eversource purchases electricity from suppliers and passes on the cost, with no profit added, directly to customers on the company's

Basic Service supply option. All customers also have the option to purchase electricity from competitive suppliers. The Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities licenses competitive suppliers within the commonwealth and maintains a list of current offers available from them. Alternative supplier prices in Massachusetts have recently ranged from 6 cents per kilowatt-hour to 12 cents per kilowatt-hour. With its recently secured pricing of 9.020 cents per kilowatt-hour, Eversource encourages customers who choose a competitive supplier to review their bill.

Effective with the July 1 Basic Service supply price change, average monthly residential bills for 550 kilowatt-hours of electricity in Eversource's Eastern Massachusetts service area will go to \$119.69 from \$130.66, or a decrease of about 8.5% on the total bill.

Eversource reminds its customers that energy efficiency is the single most effective way to take control of their year-round energy costs.

"We're number one in the nation in energy efficiency. Even with the drop in the price of electricity, our customers can take advantage of deeper savings by making full use of the programs available to them," added Conner.

For energy efficiency tips and information about the many programs available to help lower energy use, Eversource customers can visit the Save Money & Energy section of [Eversource.com](http://Eversource.com).

## West of the River Chamber of Commerce to host Job Fair 2020

AGAWAM – With the Government mandated social distancing restrictions in place, The West of the River Chamber of Commerce will be holding its annual Job Fair Virtually this year. "We feel we need to continue to move forward in this new environment, and show our business community that we are here, active and supporting our members during this time" says Executive Director, Robin Wozniak. With the extra unemployment money individuals are receiving about to expire, and local businesses beginning to re-open, the WRC is looking to help their members in any way that they can. The "Zoom" event will take place on Tuesday, Aug. 4 from 5:30

p.m. until 7 p.m. This is a free of charge event for attendees. Vendors can register online as well as attendees. "Times are different now, and many businesses are struggling. We understand this and want to help" says Wozniak. Each vendor will have the opportunity to speak to the attendees as a whole group about their company and what positions they are looking to fill. At the conclusion of the group session, each vendor will have a breakout room where attendees can ask more detailed information and exchange contact information. For more information and to register for this event visit our website: [www.westoftheriverchamber.com](http://www.westoftheriverchamber.com).

## United Way distributes food to those in need

SPRINGFIELD – The United Way of Pioneer Valley announced that beginning June 30, it began the distribution of hundreds of boxes of shelf-stable food items to partner agencies to help clients in need during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The food boxes were secured through United Way's relationship with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency as they distribute resources throughout the commonwealth. The first truckload arrived

June 30 at the United Way headquarters at 1441 Main St. in Springfield.

"We are honored to play a part in the commonwealth's COVID-19 response efforts," Paul Mina, United Way of Pioneer Valley president and CEO, said. "We have worked with MEMA closely in their relief efforts for Hampden County and are happy to continue to help."

For more information about the United Way or to get involved, visit [uwvp.org](http://uwvp.org).

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# Opinion

## OUR VIEW

### Time to learn the system from the inside

By Lee H. Hamilton  
Guest Columnist

I've spent a long time in politics, and over those years one thing has remained constant: There are a lot more Americans who criticize government than there are who serve and do something about it.

I'll admit, there have been times when I've felt a bit resentful. It's hard to enter the fray, be expected to listen patiently to criticism from all comers, and then look around to find that many of them are nowhere to be found when it comes to the hard work of improving our communities and our system.

But far more than annoyance, what I've felt is amazement at the immense but often ungrasped opportunity our system offers. This is especially acute these days, as millions of Americans take to the streets and to social media with passionate intensity, driven by deeply-held beliefs or newfound conviction and a sense that it's time to weigh in. I agree — but then, I think it's always time to weigh in. That's what our system asks of us as citizens. And in particular, I'd argue that it asks us to do it from the inside, not just from the outside.

We desperately need citizens to enter the public arena — people who are not afraid to plunge in and try to improve our democratic institutions. To be sure, critics and ordinary engaged citizens have an important role to play in shaping the public discourse. But if at some point in their lives they and others do not also see a duty to serve, our nation is in trouble.

I know the arguments you can find against it. You have to compromise your values. It's thankless. The system turns you into a cog. You make yourself a target of scrutiny. You can't actually accomplish anything.

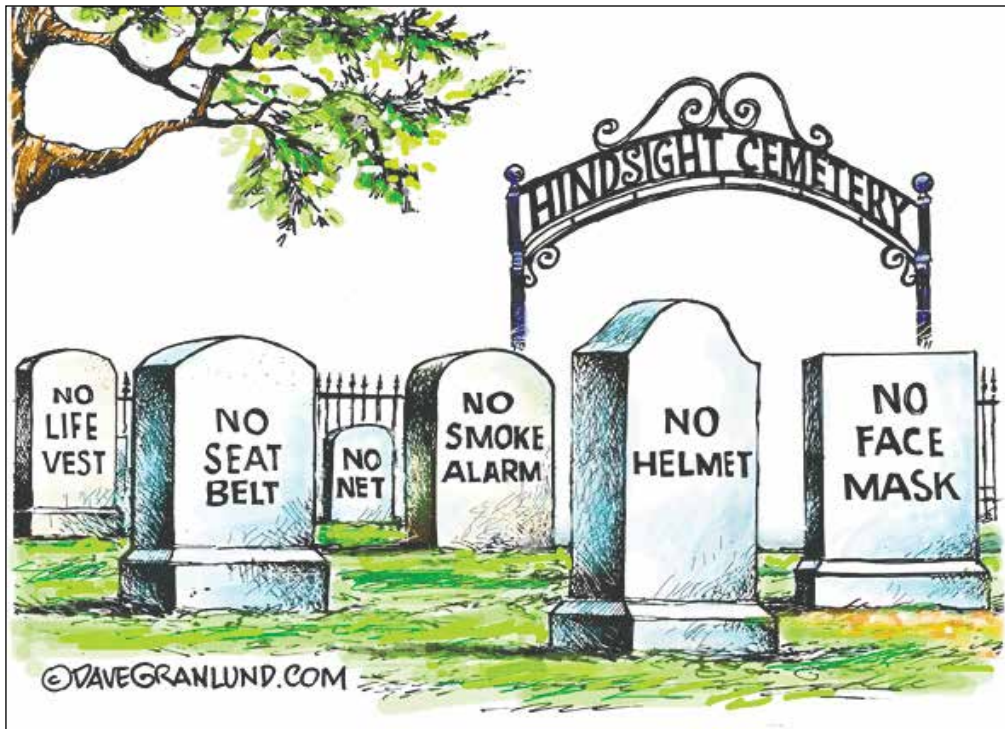
To all of this, I say: So? There is no question that our governing institutions need improving. But it's not going to happen unless people with the power to change them roll up their sleeves and set about doing so. And those people are the ones inside those institutions, who've learned how they work and who understand that actual change happens by dint of legislation, administration, and the nitty-gritty details of reform.

There are plenty of other things you can do, too: vote, spend time learning the issues you care about, make informed judgments about your elected representatives, get involved in organizations that advocate for the causes you value. But as writer Andy Smarick put it recently in "The Bulwark," "[G]overning is formative. Knocking on doors as a candidate is not just about winning votes. Sitting through a long bill hearing is not just about following the legislative process. Taking part in public debates is not just about self-expression. Making a tough governing decision is not just about resolving a policy matter. Through these activities, the public servant listens to fellow citizens, learns of competing priorities, and witnesses principles in conflict."

In our democracy, these and other skills are vital, not just for public officials, but for any citizen who wants to be involved in the community. Listening to our peers, understanding their hopes, appreciating the differences among them, grasping why accommodation and compromise are crucial to resolving those differences, and learning how to accomplish them are part and parcel of making a representative democracy work. People who do this feel in their bones how hard it is to govern in a large, diverse republic, and why we depend on large numbers of ordinary people to step forward, find their niche, and participate on town boards, in state legislatures, and in Congress.

So, as I look about at the remarkable levels of public engagement in this intense political year, I find myself hoping that more comes out of it than simple public pressure. I hope that people who'd never considered it before decide it's time to step forward, serve in public office, and help their fellow citizens make this a better country.

*Lee Hamilton is a senior advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.*



### Common questions regarding tomatoes, shrubs and more

This is a common question about the cracks that often occur on tomatoes: "most of the fruit have circular cracks, almost all the way around, up near the stem end. Is this a disease or nutrient deficiency?"

Neither! What you are describing are growth cracks. Tomatoes generally crack when a droughty period is followed by lots of rain. Cracks tend to be worse if the weather has been hot. The tomatoes on two of the nine plants I am growing in my vegetable garden are exhibiting this problem as well. Some varieties tend to be more "crack tolerant" than others, and are labeled as such in seed catalogs. To prevent future cracks, be sure to water on a regular basis. Don't be afraid to eat damaged fruit; while they aren't pretty, they are edible. More prone to rot, however, so use them quickly.

#### Autumnal sunflowers

A perennial aficionado from Brimfield is curious about the autumnal sunflower (*Helenium autumnale*), otherwise known as Sneezeweed. "I absolutely love this plant for the late season color that it adds to my perennial border. My only problem is that it is too tall. I have pinched back perennial asters for years with success. Can this same technique be used to make a stouter clump of Sneezeweed?"

It certainly can. Like you, I love everything about Sneezeweed, except for its height, which can top off at four feet! It is a native plant, which is not bothered by insects or diseases to speak of, has lovely long-lasting yellow or rusty orange flowers and despite what its name implies, doesn't make you sneeze. Years ago I experimented with reducing the height of my own plants and pinched them back twice. They were about 18 inches shorter at bloom time than they would have been and still flowered abundantly. Next year try it for yourself. When the plant is about a foot tall, remove the top few nodes of

each shoot. Repeat the pinching process a couple of weeks later, finishing by the end of June. This will give the plant ample time to grow to a respectable height and initiate buds in time for its debut come August.

#### Yew bushes

"I have some yews growing along the foundation of my house. They are the perfect size right now, but I am worried they will get out of hand. Do you have any pruning tips to pass along?" inquires a Palmer homeowner.

Sure! For this job you will need a pair of hand clippers, not hedge trimmers. New growth is obvious: it is very flexible, lighter in color and extends several inches from the shrub's silhouette. With clippers in hand, grab a branch, and instead of removing just the new growth, make a cut well within the body of the shrub. This process is called "making windows." The windows allow light to penetrate the plant's interior causing regeneration to occur. Repeat in various spots on each shrub for a balanced appearance. Any straggly growth that remains can be nipped back. By pruning in this manner each year, healthy, new growth is encouraged, yet height and width control is maintained. Too labor intensive for you? Alright, use the hedge trimmers first, then make a few windows, for nearly the same effect. Yews were quite popular foundation plants decades ago and are nice evergreens if managed properly and not left to their own devices.

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [ekennedy@turley.com](mailto:ekennedy@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*

#### ON THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid

### Law school to hold virtual discussion July 27

SPRINGFIELD – The Western New England University School of Law's Center for Social Justice will host "From the Courthouse to the Streets: Lawyering in the Time of Black Lives Matter" Monday, July 27 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. This event is free and open to all with registration.

Attendees of the virtual panel will be able to hear from a group of nationally-curated experts who will answer the question: what place does lawyering hold in this moment of grand social transformation?

"This panel is an outstanding opportunity for the first time to hold the law accountable for Black lives in a positive way," said atty. Ky-lar Broadus, trans rights activist and founder of the Trans People of Color Coalition. "While we march, and call for change, we must make sure to put into action changes that truly impact, reform, abolish, make and implement positive changes that protect all lives-but especially Black lives. If we can have the bar set at protecting and making sure Black Lives Matter, the law will be more just and fair to all."

The panel will include Dr. Jodie Roure, of John Jay College of Criminal Justice; Tyler Craw-

ford, director, Mass. Defense for the National Lawyers Guild; Carlton Williams, movement lawyer; and WNEU professor Jennifer Levi, director of GLAD's Transgender Rights Project.

Launched in 2019, the Center for Social Justice is designed to strengthen collaborative efforts between the School of Law and the region to work toward a more just, equitable and inclusive society in its next century of service. The Center provides a centralized hub of activity and innovation for the School of Law's justice-related teaching, scholarship, and service. It also broadens social justice academic offerings, helps students aspiring to be social justice lawyers achieve their goals, manages in-house pro bono projects, and works closely with community organizations and partners to identify and address unmet needs that require a multi-dimensional response cutting across law and other fields.

To register, visit <https://bit.ly/3gCXsDz>.

For more information, contact Ariel Clemmer at [ariel.clemmer@law.wne.edu](mailto:ariel.clemmer@law.wne.edu) or Bridgette Baldwin at [bbaldwin@law.wne.edu](mailto:bbaldwin@law.wne.edu).



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## AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS

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# Live music scheduled for this weekend

AGAWAM – Main Street Deli is pleased to announce that our beautiful patio is open for outside dining as well as indoor seating. Servers are available upon request outside or inside. All health regulations will be carefully monitored for your safety and comfort.

Celebrating our 11th year at this location, we will be having five live music nights on Saturdays starting with Alexis Anamisis on July 25 from 6 to 8 p.m. Rain date of Sunday, July 26 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Alexis Anamisis, of West Springfield, has wowed her

audiences since she was 11 years old. Now 17, she has already sung the National Anthem and God Bless America for many sports teams in Massachusetts and Connecticut prior to game starts. She will take the microphone with some of her favorite cover songs from her newest created CD “Lexi’s Love.” Proceeds from this CD are donated to Springfield’s Shriners Hospital for Children.

Details for our hours of operation and events are on our website 141MainStreet.com or call (413) 821-9881.



With outdoor dining become common during the pandemic, Main Street Deli is offering live music outside. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



The deli will have five performances during the next two months.

## Career coach to discuss transitioning in uncertainty

WILBRAHAM – Those considering a change in career are invited to participate in a remote workshop with a certified career coach through the Wilbraham Public Library next month.

Led by Anne Crawford, the workshop will take place Wednesday, Aug. 5 at 6 p.m. Crawford will help engage participants to talk about their career objectives, set

goals and how to foster a sense of control while looking for a new job. She will discuss how to understand and manage stress as well as how to open doors to other options, moving the employment process forward.

Registration is required and may be completed online at wilbrahamlibrary.org or by calling 596-6141.

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# Mercadante Garners Council Endorsements

**CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON:**

“I have enjoyed serving with Dino on the Agawam City Council. During that time, Dino has demonstrated his commitment to the people of Agawam. He brings a straight forward, common sense approach to local government. I am confident that he will bring that same dedication and approach to the State House representing the Third Hampden District. Agawam really needs a new and strong voice in the House of Representatives. We need someone who will listen to our concerns and fight for issues that affect our community and the district. We need someone like Dino Mercadante. I strongly encourage all Agawam residents to support Dino Mercadante for State Representative on September 1st.”

- Chris is a practicing attorney and a partner at Johnson, Sclafani & Moriarty. Chris currently serves as President of the Agawam City Council. He served as Agawam’s first Mayor and previously served as Chair of the Agawam School Committee. He previously served on the Board of Trustees at STCC, and on the Board of Directors at Mass Housing.



**ROBERT ROSSI:**

“Dino Mercadante is a friend and colleague on the Agawam City Council. I have always known him to be a strong and independent voice, one that focuses on results, not chance, to ensure that our system of government actually works for the people; to protect our future and preserve our quality of life. I have no doubt that Dino will earn your respect, your trust and your vote, as I have. Please, join me in voting for Dino Mercadante, our next State Representative.”

- Bob is a longtime City Councilor and public servant.



**ANTHONY SUFFRITI:**

“I have known Dino and his family for years. He is an honest, hard working man of integrity. He is not afraid of a 12-hour work day or a 7-day work week. He has a willingness to meet every task head on, and a desire to work with anyone, Republican or Democrat, for the betterment of his community. I know that he can bring the energy and hard work that he has brought to his business and to the Agawam City Council to Beacon Hill. I look forward to voting for Dino Mercadante for State Representative of the Third Hampden District, and I hope you will join me.”

- Anthony is co-owner of Nikolai Home Improvements. He is currently in his 4th term on the Agawam City Council and serves as Chair of the Legislative Committee and Vice-Chair of the Community Relations Committee.



I humbly ask for your support in the September 1st Republican Primary for State Representative of the Third Hampden District. I am eager to get to work for you!

“I’ll fight for you everyday. Our district deserves its fair share.”

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Dino Mercadante



**DINO**  
**MERCADANTE**  
State Representative

A New Voice for Agawam, Southwick and Granville



# Big E Summer Weekends at Storrowton Village

WEST SPRINGFIELD – Eastern States Exposition recently announced Big E Summer Weekends at Storrowton Village, a place to dine, shop, sip and satisfy your sweet tooth on the grounds of The Big E. The Big E Bakery, Storrowton Tavern, Sam Adams Brew Garden and Storrowton Village Museum & Gift Shop have come together to create a safe, social distancing environment that will allow people to enjoy an afternoon or evening out and support local businesses.

The festivities began Friday, July 17.

Eugene J. Cassidy, president and CEO of ESE, said, “The Exposition is pleased to showcase some of our iconic products and serve as an incubator for our local partners to get back into business after a long hiatus from being able to conduct their operations. We invite the support of our community and our community at large to help us bring life back to the grounds and continue to serve as an economic driver for the region.”

The Big E Bakery Drive-Up Window

EJ Dean and his family, from Salisbury Beach, Mass., have operated The Big E Bakery since 2018. They have become residents of Agawam, Mass., and with each year they try to feature something new. They utilize local companies, purchasing products, supplies and ingredients from area businesses.

The successful Taste of The Big E food preview event in June proved the demand for The Big E's iconic Cream Puffs and Eclairs. The Big E Bakery will be open weekends so fans can purchase Big E Cream Puffs and Eclairs all summer long, a first for the Bakery that opened in 2002. Drive up to the New England Center to order singles, three-packs and six-packs for a special occasion, surprise dessert or a tasty treat after work. The bakery will be open Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information and online ordering details, visit [www.thebig.com/thebigbakery](http://www.thebig.com/thebigbakery).

Sam Adams Brew Garden

The fourth generation operating Eddie Shore Enterprises brings the Brew Garden. Their affiliation with Eastern States dates back to the golden years of hockey in the Coliseum. They have operated concessions on the grounds, including the Brew Garden, for more than 60 years.

The Sam Adams Brew Garden, a popular favorite at The Big E, will be open for outdoor dining this summer. Relax and enjoy your favorite Sam Adams brews paired with a menu of appetizers, burgers, pizzas, salads and more. The Brew Garden is located on the Avenue of States behind the Storrowton Village Gift Shop. Summer hours are Fridays from 4 to 9 p.m., Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.. For full menus and more, visit [www.thebig.com/samadamsbrewgarden](http://www.thebig.com/samadamsbrewgarden).

Storrowton Tavern

The Calvanese family, of East Longmeadow, has operated Storrowton Tavern since 2003. Serving the finest, locally sourced foods, the restaurant and banquet house have been the site of generations of family occasions.

In the mood for hearty New England fare? Stop by Storrowton Tavern, just steps away from the Village Green, for indoor and outdoor dining options. Tavern lunch and dinner hours are Tuesday to Thursday from 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.; with Sunday BBQ Brunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner service from 4 to 8 p.m. For full menus, cocktail hour information, and patio music lineup, visit [www.storrowton.com](http://www.storrowton.com).

Storrowton Village Museum & Gift Shop

Storrowton Village Museum will be open for timed-ticket historic house tours on Tuesdays to Thursdays and family activity blocks on Fridays and Saturdays this summer, through Aug. 29. The museum will also offer ticketed ghost tours on Fridays in August.

Guests can visit the newly remodeled Storrowton Village Gift Shop in the Phillips House, filled with handpicked items for home, garden, fashion, kids, and more. There are sections for New England-made maple products, hand-forged blacksmith items, gifts like “The Big E Book”, the Eastern States Exposition Centennial history book and official Big E tartan products that include clutches, coin purses, tissue holders and keychain wristlets.

The Gift Shop is open Tuesdays through Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday hours are extended to 7 p.m., with extra shopping hours to be added in August. Learn more at [www.storrowtonvillage.com](http://www.storrowtonvillage.com).

# Doctor offers insight to airborne spread of COVID-19

SPRINGFIELD – There is a new international debate surrounding COVID-19 and the spread of the infection.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other health organizations have long thought that the novel coronavirus is spread mainly from person-to-person between people who are in close contact within one another (within six feet). This spread is through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks. These droplets can land in the mouths, noses or eyes of people who are nearby or be inhaled into the lungs. Some recent studies have suggested that COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.

Now in a letter sent to the World Health Organization signed by more than 200 scientists, they claim that aerosolized droplets floating in the air can cause infection. They urged WHO to react to what they claim is “mounting evidence.”

“They are raising the specter that COVID-19 could theoretically be transmitted by the airborne route,” said Dr. Sarah Haessler, lead epidemiologist and infectious disease specialist for Baystate Health.

Aerosols are small particles that can remain suspended in air for longer periods of time than most respiratory secretions and are small and light enough to sometimes travel longer distances. Certain viruses such as smallpox and measles, and bacteria, such as the agent that causes tuberculosis, are expelled as aerosols and can therefore be transmitted by the “airborne route.”

Most respiratory viruses are transmitted by the “droplet” route, which means that they are expelled as larger particles that are heavier and fall to the ground in a span of three to six feet from an infected person. This is from where the social distancing recommendation of six feet derives, noted Haessler. For these agents, a

facemask is appropriate protection, along with eye coverings, gloves and downs, especially for healthcare workers.

“In the hospital, we use a special type of respirator mask called N95, which is required for protection when treating patients whose viruses can become aerosolized,” said Haessler.

According to Haessler, the letter to WHO predominantly represents the opinion of laboratory scientists and researchers, many of whom are from “particle science” and other engineering-type disciplines and basic, but importantly not clinical – science positions.

“While it may be accurate that under certain laboratory conditions, the COVID-19 virus can form aerosols, there is scant data to present to suggest that this infection is generally transmitted that way,” Haessler said. “In fact, the preponderance of actual clinical and epidemiologic information – including data from our own experiences at Baystate over the past four months of the pandemic – strongly suggest that this virus is primarily transmitted by respiratory droplets.”

Haessler has reassurance for the public who may have read about the debate and the letter sent to WHO, and who are worried about their protection from the virus.

“Universal masking, hand hygiene and social distancing are still the main ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19 since clinical data strongly suggests the virus is mainly transmitted through respiratory droplets, as we have known since the early beginnings of the novel coronavirus data,” she said. “To further stop the virus and protect yourselves and others, remember to wear a mask when around others, keep a safe distance from others, cover your coughs and sneezes, and to wash your hands often.”

For more information on Baystate Health, visit [baystatehealth.org](http://baystatehealth.org).

## Faith on Fire Rally canceled

AGAWAM – Pastoral Minister Deb Briancesco announced the cancellation of the Faith on Fire event. She said: “It is with a very heavy heart that we the Faith on Fire Committee have to let you know that The Faith on Fire Catholic Rally for 2020 has been canceled due to Covid-19.

Please mark your 2021 calendar for the Faith on Fire Rally, Aug. 26 and 27. We are trying to put together a Praise and Worship event that will be Livestreamed; please keep everyone in pray to do all that God is asking.”

## Virtual walk scheduled to help NAMI

AGAWAM – The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Western Massachusetts will be holding its 20th Annual Walkathon Virtual Celebration, ‘A Journey of Hope and Recovery on Aug. 23, starting at 11 a.m.

The event is suitable for all ages and abilities and will directly benefit NAMI Western Massachusetts continuing efforts to help improve the lives of those individuals living with mental health conditions and their families.

NAMI is the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization. NAMI provides advocacy, education, support and public awareness so that all individuals and families affected by mental illness can Build

Better Lives.

Folks may help NAMI-WM's mission by participating in this Virtual Walk or by sponsoring the event. Anyone who would like to submit a brief video saying how NAMI-WM has helped them or a loved one or how they maintain good mental health during these difficult times, these would be most appreciated. Videos should be two minutes or less, and the deadline is Aug. 7. All entries should be emailed to [information@namiwm.org](mailto:information@namiwm.org).

For further information, contact NAMI's office at 413-786-9139 or visit [www.namiwm.org/events](http://www.namiwm.org/events) for entry and sponsorship forms.

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# Public Notices

## AGAWAM PLANNING BOARD

The Agawam Planning Board will hold a **remote public hearing** due to the COVID19 pandemic on **Thursday, August 6, 2020 at 6:00 PM online via Zoom**. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the Definitive Plan application of **Hillside Development Corp. for property known as 173 Southwick Street**. Interested parties can contact the Planning Board at [pkerr@agawam.ma.us](mailto:pkerr@agawam.ma.us) for more information, to provide written comments prior to the meeting or attend via the following:

**Join Zoom Webinar:**  
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**Password:** 456034  
**one-tap mobile:**  
 US: +1 301 715 8592 (Germantown) or +1 312 626 6799 (Chicago)  
**Webinar ID:** 972 4318 7943

By Order of  
**Mark R. Paleologopoulos,**  
**Chairman**  
 Agawam Planning Board  
 07/23, 07/30/20

## AGAWAM PLANNING BOARD

The Agawam Planning Board will hold a **remote public hearing** due to the COVID19 pandemic on **Thursday, August 6, 2020 at 6:30 PM online via Zoom**. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the Definitive Plan application of **Aspenwood Associates LLC for property at 673 Silver Street**. Interested parties can contact the Planning Board at [pkerr@agawam.ma.us](mailto:pkerr@agawam.ma.us) for more information, to provide written comments prior to the meeting or attend via the following:

**Join Zoom Webinar:**  
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By Order of  
**Mark R. Paleologopoulos,**  
**Chairman**  
 Agawam Planning Board  
 07/23, 07/30/20

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
 The Trial Court  
 Hampden Probate and Family Court  
 50 State Street  
 Springfield, MA 01103  
 (413)748-7758  
 Docket No. HD20P1091EA  
 Estate of:  
 Lucille H Blackak  
 Date of Death: 04/13/2010  
 CITATION ON  
 PETITION FOR  
 FORMAL  
 ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:  
 A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Matthew Blackak** of Agawam, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Matthew Blackak** of Agawam, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
 You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/05/2020**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and

may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
 Date: July 08, 2020

**Suzanne T. Seguin**  
 Register of Probate  
 7/23/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
 The Trial Court  
 Hampden Probate and Family Court  
 50 State Street  
 Springfield, MA 01103  
 (413)748-7758  
 Docket No. HD20P1097EA  
 Estate of: Lea Scibelli  
 Date of Death: 05/18/2020  
 CITATION ON  
 PETITION FOR  
 FORMAL  
 ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:  
 A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **John Michael Discenza** of South Hadley MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **John Michael Discenza** of South Hadley MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
 You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/13/2020**.

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an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
 Date: July 09, 2020

**Suzanne T. Seguin**  
 Register of Probate  
 7/23/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
 The Trial Court  
 Hampden Probate and Family Court  
 50 State Street  
 Springfield, MA 01103  
 (413)748-7758  
 Docket No. HD20P1115EA  
 Estate of:  
 Kenneth Charles Walker  
 Also known as:  
 Kenneth C Walker  
 Date of Death: 07/12/2018  
 CITATION ON  
 PETITION FOR**

**FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
 To all interested persons:  
 A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Cheryl Walker** of Feeding Hills MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Cheryl Walker** of Feeding Hills MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
 You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/18/2020**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If

you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
 Date: July 14, 2020

**Suzanne T. Seguin**  
 Register of Probate  
 7/23/2020

**Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.**

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## Cocchi postpones 2020 summer cookout

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi has postponed this year's summer cookout.

The cookout typically draws people from across the commonwealth and although Massachusetts has seen significant success in flattening the curve of the novel coronavirus, the sheriff doesn't want to take chances when it comes to health and safety.

"We considered several possibilities for social distancing, but it just made sense to cancel this year's event," said Cocchi. "We don't know where things will stand with the pandemic come August and the last thing we want to do is help facilitate anyone getting sick."

Cocchi's team is working on planning a similar event to take place outdoors in October, assuming it is safe to hold such an event at that time. Details on that gathering, if it proceeds, will be forthcoming as the fall approaches.

"As much as we are ready for this to be over, we have to remain cautious to keep everybody safe and healthy," Cocchi said. "We are hopeful about putting something together for the fall, but regardless, we are already looking forward to next year's summer cookout. It's always nice to see the people we serve alongside our law enforcement community and our legislators, and we will get together when it's safe to do so."

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# SPORTS

## FALL SPORTS

# Will high schools be able to play fall sports?

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – Earlier this year, the high school and college sports worlds were ruined by the cancellation of all spring sports at each level, ranging up through Division 1 schools, and professional sports.

There always seemed to be an optimism at the time that sports would be able to resume without an issue this fall and at the high school level in Massachusetts, athletic directors planned a fall schedule, much like they do each spring as most schedules are made out a season in advance.

But as the summer rages on with next to no activity and sports like soccer and football banned (for having games) despite Massachusetts' improved situation compared to the rest of the country, now fall sports seem to be in doubt.

Several New England colleges and universities have declared

that fall sports are postponed due to the recent spikes throughout the rest of the country and concerns over interstate travel and the lack of a vaccine which guarantees the stop of an overwhelming spread of COVID-19.

Massachusetts, as of last week, still maintains a positive test rate of less than 2 percent, but the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association is still having to consider the potential impact of allowing high school athletes back on fields, especially with soccer and football contests barred at the amateur level.

The ban does not specifically affect high school players, and the MIAA is working with the governor's office on guidance.

The MIAA's board of directors, which recently changed some of its membership around due to re-districting, was scheduled to meet earlier this week to discuss a potential start date for fall sports.

FALL SPORTS | page 9



Field hockey could be a sport that could resume as it was not on the governor's list of "at-risk" activities. FILE PHOTOS



Soccer was barred for the summer, with the PVSSL canceling its season. MIAA officials are discussing this week whether soccer can be played this fall.



With football currently banned at the amateur level, will Western Mass. high school football commence in September?

## RACING

# Robie gets win in modified race, Sonhalter captures mini-stock battle

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Brian Robie (Sunapee, NH) topped a big field of NHSTRA Modifieds Saturday, July 18, charging from row four to score his first win of the season at Monadnock Speedway. Hillary Renaud (Vernon, VT), meanwhile, led all the way to earn her first season victory in the ultra-competitive Street Stocks.

And, while Renaud was busy scoring her first victory lane celebration, Late Model Sportsman star Aaron Fellows (Croydon, VT) stayed perfect on the year, using a late-race pass to overcome his strongest challenge of the summer en route to victory lane. Vermont pilot Matt Sonhalter

RACE | page 9



Matt Sonhalter picks up the win in the mini-stock race. SUBMITTED PHOTO

## COLLEGE

# MASCAC suspends fall sports programs

WESTFIELD – Westfield State University athletics announced that the Owls will not have intercollegiate competition for fall sports teams in the Fall 2020 season, in conjunction with the announcement from the league's Council of Presidents on Thursday, July 16, 2020 that the entire Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) will not compete in fall sports programs.

The Owls' fall sports teams (football, men's and women's soccer, field hockey, volleyball, men's and women's cross country and men's and women's golf) will have the ability to practice on campus while utilizing the NCAA Resocialization of Sport Guidelines.

"I am extremely disappointed to have to announce to our student-athletes and families that our fall season teams will not have the opportunity to play intercollegiate games this fall," said athletics director Richard Lenfest, Jr. "The COVID-19 pandemic has had an extreme impact on public health, and ultimately we need to take the steps that best protect the health of our student athletes and their loved ones in limiting the opportunity to spread or contract the virus."

"I am happy that we still be able to provide team activities through practices, conditioning and skill training," added Lenfest. "Athletics provides numerous

COLLEGE | page 9



Sports



Aaron Fellows was a winner in the Late Model Sportsman race. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Brian Robie came out on top in the NHSTRA Modified race.

RACE ■ from page 8

(White River Junction, VT) wired the night-cap 50-lap Mini Stock event.

There are few sounds in life that come close to that made by a big field of Modifieds thundering atop the blacktop in pursuit of Saturday night glory. That thunder is heard weekly at Monadnock Speedway, where, Saturday, Matt Kimball and Rob Richardi led the 18-car Modified field to battle.

Kimball, gunning to turn a season-long hard luck run around, jumped all over the lead as the 40-lapper went green. Richardi stayed glued to his bumper, with defending track king Todd Patnode quickly entering the hunt.

By lap ten, Patnode held the deuce spot, while two-time 2020 winner Ben Byrne was rocketing up to third. Coming from row five, Byrne took the three-spot on lap 14 but he and Patnode’s battle would be a short one. Coming quickly onto a cloud of lappers on lap 18, the potent pair came together, ending Patnode’s night early for the second week in a row and sending Byrne to the rear.

The turn-one tangle brought Robie alongside Kimball on the restart and, two laps later, he had the point, then dashing off to victory just ahead of the second-generation hot shoe, with Byrne charging back through the pack to finish third on the night. Robie’s victory moved him to the top of the points parade.

The Curtis twins, Chase and Jaret, did all they could to keep Hillary Renaud from taking her first career Street Stock victory lap but, on this night, the Vernon, VT. driver could not be stopped.

Chase Curtis was all over her back bumper for most of the race, sometimes even bumping it, without finding a path to the point, while brother Jaret did the same due diligence in his shadow. With the white flag in the air, Jaret rocketed low through turn two to claim the deuce, then watching Renaud flash under the checkers just ahead of him. Chris Buffone was fourth on the night, and Mike Radzuik rounded out the top five.

Cole Littlewood did something Saturday that nobody else had accomplished so far this season, outrun Aaron Fellows for 21 laps in the LMS feature. Piloting the Steve Brehio ride, Littlewood kept Fellows in his shadow until the Croydon pilot took

a wheels-length advantage on lap 22, and then soared off to victory.

Robert Hagar powered into second on the white flag lap, with Littlewood completing his strong night’s work in third. The victory was Fellows’ second of the weekend and kept him undefeated this season.

Matt Sonnhalter was in the house Saturday to hunt for victory in the 50-lap Mini Stock main event, the first leg of the regional 2020 Battle for The Belt series. And while the speedway’s weekly racing series drivers did well, nobody could catch the speedy Sonnhalter.

Nathan Wenzel and Jared Soucy were frequently closest to Sonnhalter, but it was 2019 track champ Louie Maher II who came closest at the end. Firing from way back in row eight, Maher methodically charged forward, getting past potent Gordon Farnum late to claim the runner-up hardware. Farnum’s third place run moved him back atop the hometrack points parade.

Next Saturday, July 25, the thundering NEMA Midgets and NEMA Lites will join the Monadnock Speedway weekly racing series divisions for an exciting night of racing on the high banks. Advanced General Admission Tickets are available. For more information, please visit [www.monadnock-speedway.com](http://www.monadnock-speedway.com).

Monadnock Speedway July 18, 2020 results:

NHSTRA MODIFIEDS: Brian Robie, Matt Kimball, Ben Byrne, Trevor Bleau, Anthony Bello, Solomon Brow, Rob Richardi, Kim Rivet, Keith Carzello, Kevin Pittsinger, Brian Crunden, Jason Houle, Jerry Gomarolo, Eric Leclair, Cory Plummer, Cameron Houle, Scott MacMichael, Todd Patnode

MINI STOCK (50-lap Battle for The Belt): Matt Sonnhalter, Louie Maher, Gordon Farnum, Dan Sweeney, Nathan Sweeney, Kevin Clayton, Billy Chaffee, Joshua Hubbard, Tim Leblanc, Jeff Asselin, Shelby Avery, Haydon Grenier, Jake Puchalski, Jared Soucey, Andrew Harmon, Kevin McKnight, Kevin Russell, Bobby Kirker, Pat Houle

STREET STOCK: Hillary Renaud, Jaret Curtis, Chase Curtis, Chris Buffone, Mike Radzuik, Chris Riendeau, Tim Wenzel, Bryan Granger, Paul Barnard, Ben Williams

Organisak defeats Maccario for Mass. Amateur title

MARION – Sudbury native Matthew Organisak, 22, has defeated Waltham’s Nick Maccario, 28, by a score of 2 up to capture the 112th Massachusetts Amateur title in Friday’s 36-hole championship match at The Kittansett Club in Marion.

This is the first state amateur win for Organisak, who represents Nashawtuc CC in Concord and recently graduated Emory University in Atlanta. Mike Ohanian, the 1968 champion, is the only other person to win it while representing Nashawtuc. Organisak also won the 2019 Francis Ouimet Memorial Tournament, also a Mass Golf championship.

Organisak joins Patrick Frodigh (2018) and Ben Spitz (2006) as the only left-handed golfers to win it since 2000.

Match Summary: The first 18 holes ended in a tie, with both men winning five holes. Organisak won four of the first six holes over the next 18 holes and never trailed. He birdied the 9th (27th overall) and 10th (28th) to take a 4-up lead. Maccario won the 12th (30th) and 13th (31st) and

made birdie on the 17th (35th) to cut it to 1 up, but Organisak was on the 18th (36th) green in three, and Maccario conceded after missing his par putt.

Organisak, 22, made his first appearance in the Mass Amateur championship final. The Sudbury native is a recent graduate of Emory University in Atlanta where he finished No. 2 for program scoring average, posting a mark of 73.04 strokes over 86 rounds of play. Organisak, a former standout at Lincoln-Sudbury High School, won the 2019 Francis Ouimet Memorial Tournament, and in 2016, qualified for the U.S. Amateur.

Maccario, 28, made his first appearance in the Mass Amateur championship final. He won the 2019 Mass Mid-Amateur championship and the 2019 Mass Four-Ball (with Mike Calef). He also played in the 2019 U.S. Amateur at Pinehurst No. 2 & No. 4 in North Carolina. He attended St. John’s Prep in high school and also had a stint on the St. Anselm College men’s golf team.

FALL SPORTS ■ from page 8

Ludlow High School Athletic Director Tim Brillo was a former member of the Board of Directors, but lost his seat on July 1 with the re-districting.

“I’m not on the board anymore, but I am hopeful that we will be able to have a fall season,” said Brillo.

While Massachusetts is still on a good trajectory with a low infection rate, fear of a spike or a “second wave” if too much activity is allowed, is what is driving some decisions about whether to allow athletics and whether or not some school will involve remote learning this fall.

Agawam High School Athletic Director David Stratton said there are other restrictions he will have to contend with. While there is no interstate travel involved, travel is going to be limited.

“We’re only allowed to have a certain number of kids on the buses at a time,” said Stratton. “That could limit our ability to

have JV games on the road.”

He said JV sports could be cancelled altogether, or JV squads could have geographically limited schedules or parents could be responsible for transportation.

He also said EEE (Eastern Equine Encephalitis) becomes a major factor as there are confirmed cases. He said the EEE wrinkle in the region could further limit sports because game times would have to be before dark until there is a frost.

Stratton said there is a possibility that sports like soccer and football could experience a delay, while sports not labeled at as high a risk, like golf, cross country, and volleyball, could be allowed to play immediately.

“These are all things being discussed by the MIAA and it’s committees,” said Stratton, who is part of the sports medicine sub-committee. “Hopefully we have will have some answers soon.”

COLLEGE ■ from page 8

benefits to our athletes, including strengthening their social networks, health, fitness, and general mental well-being through the benefit of exercise. Student-athletes will be able to train with their coaches, and while group sizes and activities may be modified to meet health guidelines, there is still the opportunity to reap the benefits provided by college athletics.”

A decision on the winter sport seasons was deferred until September by the Council of Presidents.

The NCAA has issued several blanket waivers regarding eligibility. Student-athletes who’s teams compete in less than 50 percent of that sports maximum allowable games for the fall 2020 season will not use a year of eligibility, so that Owl fall sport athletes who take part in team practices and activities will not lose a year of eligibility.

“The NCAA has acted swiftly to ensure that student-athletes do not unduly lose eligibility due to the pandemic’s impact on competition,” said Lenfest. “Our staff will be available to our athletes to answer any questions they have about eligibility.”

The MASCAC is also investigating the ability to allow fall-season sports to compete in the spring, should public health conditions allow for it, pending NCAA rules.

“Ultimately, we are committed to providing the best experience and the safest experience for our student athletes,” said Lenfest. “This fall, the safest option is to not compete in intercollegiate games, but we can provide the best possible experience given the current health situation

by having team practices and training. We are fully committed to getting back to inter-collegiate competition as quickly as possible, as allowed under the Conference and NCAA Guidelines, as well as local, State and Federal health guidelines permit.”

Owl student athletes will not return to campus early for preseason in 2020, they will instead follow the Safe Fall Opening procedures established by the University, and team activities will start in early September. Coaches will be reaching out to their individual teams and players to further outline team plans and training schedules.

Westfield State athletics has consistently been the top program in the MASCAC. The Owls won the 2019-20 Howard C. Smith Cup, signifying the best overall athletics program in the league based on regular season records, and the Owls have claimed the Cup five times in the last six years and nine times since 2007.

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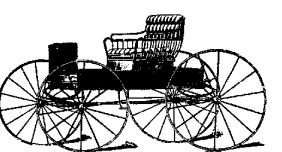
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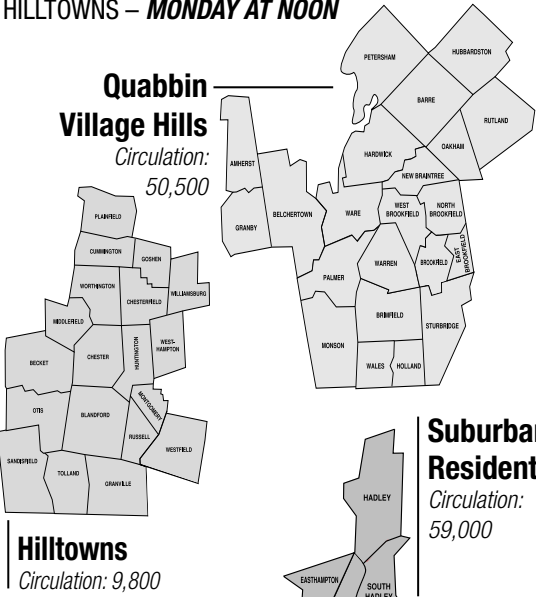
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# Concerts underway at School Street Park

AGAWAM – The Agawam Parks and Recreation Department is putting on its Summer Concert Series while adhering to social distancing at School Street Park. The concerts are typically held Wednesdays at the band shell at the park.

A large crowd assembled for the first live concert of the summer, signs were posted to stay socially distant and to wear masks when interacting with others. People attended and distanced in groups and had plenty of room to spread out. PHOTOS BY SHELBY MACRI



Mike, Fred, Rosann, and Oscar Ryczek stay socially distant while listening to King Kountry for the first summer concert.



Selda Bicakci, Nevaluyar, Belya Bicakci, Esra Bicakci, Muruvvet Dogan, and Aysha Dogan enjoy the concert at the School Street Park.



The Band King Kountry, played at the School Street Park on Wednesday, July 15. They played to a socially distant crowd and left space between each other on stage.



From left; Maria LaFrance and Nichole Gomes enjoy the live music.

